



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

The Fire Marshal's Office updates the Clark County Code

The most dramatic change has involved the transition from the 1997 Uniform Fire Code (UFC) to the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC), adopted by the state of Washington on July 1, 2004. As most city and county jurisdictions throughout the state, Clark County adopted the IFC with local amendments in Title 15 of the Clark County Code. The local amendments to the International Fire Code can be accessed on the Clark County Web site: www.clark.wa.gov/commdev/newcodes.html. To read the rest of the article, [click here](#).★

Chilly Autumn evenings

The crackle of a nice fire on a chilly autumn evening brings back memories of roasting marshmallows or relaxing after a good day's skiing. But as the cold of winter descends upon us, you realize that perhaps your fireplace could use some work. Before you run

out to the local hardware store or stove specialty outlet, here are some basic things to keep in mind.

There are several different types of fireplace inserts and appliances that can help give your home just the right cozy feel. Standard woodburning inserts, gas inserts, and wood pellet stoves are popular products, each having different advantages and disadvantages.

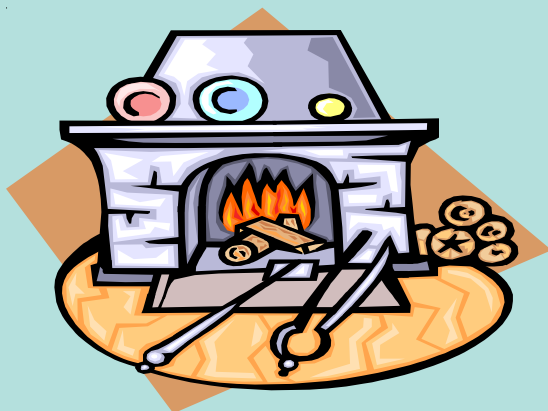
Whichever product meets your needs, you will have to obtain a woodstove or fireplace permit from your city or local county building department, and have the installation inspected. In addition, gas insert fireplaces require a gas piping permit and inspection. These regulations are designed to ensure you and your family are safe sitting by that cozy fire.

Another consideration is whether your fireplace insert meets the emissions standards. This is especially important if you are purchasing a used wood stove or appliance. As of January 1997, all emission standards are governed by the Washington State Department of Ecology, which maintains a list of certified fireplaces. When in doubt, be sure to check whether your stove will meet current emissions standards. Ecology staff can be contacted at (800) 523-4363 or check out their website at the Department of Ecology Web site, www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/airhome.html.

Proper installation of a new fireplace or wood stove can help make cozy nights that complement cool and wet fall and winter days. Your city or county building division can give you permit information and recommendations for safe installation. ★

November 2004 Inside:

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In the Works

Community Development has two kinds of work. Our primary work is processing permit applications, enforcing code, etc. This is the work our applicants see. We have another body of work that involves improving the way the department operates. Here are some of our current improvements, in the works.

By the end of 2004:

- Adoption of new final plat and final site plan processes that streamline and simplify the process.
- Implement a new process in Customer Service that allows customers to get from the reception desk to a CD specialist more quickly, and allows the CD specialist to know the kind of transaction the customer needs.
- An addition to Maps On Line that allows customers to see all the development permits underway in a selected geographic area.
- Provide faster tenant improvement reviews by streamlining the parking review requirements.
- A new timekeeping system that makes it faster for staff to record time, by project and activity, and makes it easier for the county payroll divisions to enter the information into their system.

By mid 2005

- completion of sixty-two amendments to the code to improve its clarity and processes.
- Contracting with a new code publisher so changes are processed more quickly and in a better format.
- Web permitting for simple building permits and pet license renewals.

- The ability to take credit cards at the front counter.
- An improved way to estimate fees, so pre-application reports have more complete and reliable estimates and so the Customer Service Center can give fee quotes more quickly. ★

Plan Monitoring

Comprehensive planning under Washington's Growth Management Act is more than developing a plan and sitting it on a shelf until an update arrives. The State of Washington requires Clark County and all the cities to regularly monitor the progress of the plan. We are required to calculate how much land is being developed, at what density, with how many employees, etc.

This requirement is easier for communities that have permit tracking systems and can pull reports from those systems. Other communities use spreadsheets or manual methods of data tabulation, making it harder for them to monitor and report the data. Clark County has a high number of development permits, and must assemble the data from the cities to create a comprehensive countywide view of development.

DCD and the cities are working on a project to develop a consistent format for monitoring the data with money from a grant from CTED. Communities will have the option of pulling data out of their database or spreadsheet and loading it into the plan monitoring spreadsheet, or using the plan monitoring spreadsheet as its basic data collection tool. Spreadsheets will be sent to the county on a routine basis. County staff will trans-



Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Permit Center
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning

fer local spreadsheets into a consistent format, add the data into Tidemark and prepare reports.

The reports will be posted on the county website so everyone will have the opportunity to see community specific data and a countywide compilation in one place. Data will be more consistent and timely and will be processed to create a countywide perspective.

The tools under development either reduce or hold constant the amount of work required by communities. The tools will also reduce the work required by the county because staff will not need to go to communities and manually tabulate their data. Citizens, decision makers and consultants will benefit from consistent and reliable data.

The department plans to complete the project by July of 2005. ✨

Engineering Services reaches out

In addition to the usual daily fare of plan review, inspection and assisting customers, Engineering Services provides outreach and education.

Several erosion and sediment control presentations have been requested of NPDES enforcement staff. In early October, Sheila Pendleton-Orme conducted a luncheon presentation for the local chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The presentation focused on large parcel erosion prevention and control challenges in the field. Close to 50 people attended including engineers from Oregon. This educational effort

was aimed at providing practical information on common problems that can develop during construction and possible solutions.

In mid-September, Maureen Knutson presented the history of the county's Erosion Prevention and Control Program at an EPA Region 10 workshop for NPDES Phase II Stormwater program managers in Salem, Oregon. More than 80 participants from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho as well as states outside the region such as Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Texas and Colorado attended. This presentation allowed the county to showcase its program and share lessons learned with others needing to develop their own programs.

Engineering Services has also been conducting its biennial focus group meetings with the development community. We are meeting with mixed groups of developers, architects, planners, engineers, surveyors, contractors, and other development support specialists such as realtors and title insurance companies. The meetings provide us the opportunity to share recent improvements and discuss how we are addressing issues of concern. This year's effort is drawing to a close and a summary of feedback will be available in late-November. ✨

2005 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the regional transportation plan for the metropolitan area of Clark County. Federal law requires that local jurisdictions, including Clark County, to cooperatively set regional transportation investment

What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: www.cvtv.org ✨

Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at desiree.demoney@clark.wa.gov. ✨

priorities for the 20-year period of the plan. Previous versions of the MTP have lead to decisions to fund and construct improvements like the new State Route 500 interchange at NE 112th Avenue.

Long Range Planning provides the lead staff from the county to the MTP process. Land use information from the new comprehensive plan will be the basis for the MTP in addition to the county's newest 20-year transportation capital facilities plan. Along with other jurisdictions, the county will partner with RTC on the development of the MTP document. Future improvements will be classified as either being part of the fiscally-constrained project list or part of the strategic investments, which are desired but not affordable given regional revenue estimates. Towards the end of the process, Long Range Planning staff will also review the draft plan to ensure consistency with the county's adopted comprehensive plan.

The development of the 2005 MTP should provide a visible public forum to confirm the direction set in the I-5 Bi-State study. This study recommended a balanced approach to meeting peak period demand for crossing the Columbia River while ensuring consistent freight mobility essential to the economic growth of Clark County and the region. *

ComDev in the News

"Arson blamed in two fires at Prairie High" - The Columbian 11-17-04

http://www.columbian.com/11172004/front_pa/212606.html

"Design award ceremony at Royal Oaks" - The Columbian 11-14-04

http://www.columbian.com/11142004/clark_co/211491.html

"Gravel plan advances" - The Columbian 11-5-04

http://www.columbian.com/11052004/clark_co/208563.html

"Developers wants Kohl's store in Hazel Dell" - The Columbian 11-5-04

<http://www.columbian.com/11052004/business/208661.html>

"Storedahl gets OK to expand mining" - The Oregonian 11-5-04

http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1099659632171810.xml

"Man charged in dogfighting case" - The Columbian 10-28-04

http://www.columbian.com/10282004/clark_co/205036.html

"Man dies in Hazel Dell mobile home fire" - The Columbian 10-26-04

http://www.columbian.com/10262004/clark_co/204239.html

"Sprawl study salutes metro area" - The Columbian 10-26-04

http://www.columbian.com/10262004/clark_co/204232.html

"Harsher Penalties" - The Columbian 10-23-04

http://www.columbian.com/10232004/clark_co/203064.html

"Dog fighting case spurs new Woods home search." - The Oregonian 10-16-04

http://www.oregonlive.com/search/index.ssf?base/metro_south_news/1097928021288440.xml?oregonian?sn

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